

The Andover Council on Aging Board (COAB) met in regular session on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 8:00 am at The Center at Punchard, 30 Whittier Court, Andover, MA.

Co-Chair Ann Grecoe called the meeting to order at 8:05 am and on ROLL CALL: Present were Mary Garrity Cormier, Mike Basile, Don Robb, Mike Roli, Ann Grecoe, Margaret O'Connor, Kaye Devanna, Joan Fox, Stu McNeil and Jane Gifun. Absent were Joe Ponti and Louise Ordman.

Also present were Kathy Urquhart, Director of Elder Services, Donna Morse, Executive Secretary of Elder Services, Linn Anderson, Finance Committee Liaison, Dan McDuffie, Andover Senior Community Friends Chair and Donal Colman.

Minutes

On Motion by Joan Fox, which was seconded by Jane Gifun, it was voted to accept the December minutes as amended. On VOICE VOTE the motion was declared as PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Citizen Input

Donal Coleman suggested that a finance support group be started to offer support to seniors to help them remain in Andover. He also stated that Neighbors in Need needs to be in the community. Kathy Urquhart explained that Neighbors In Need is not something that The Center would handle but could advocate for. Several members of the Board will work with Kathy on this project.

New Business

Andover Senior Community Friends (ASCF) - Chairman Dan McDuffie told the Board that the ASCF have raised funds to meet small requests of The Center. In the spring they are planning a fund raiser, "Let's Talk Antiques". The Friends will also explore opportunities to include a flyer in Town mailings such as tax bills. It was suggested that Jay Leno be contacted to see if he would consider participating in an ASCF fund raiser.

Director's Report

Kathy Urquhart stated that the MCOA was doing a survey and requested the Board's input and the survey was quickly reviewed. Kathy reviewed the FY15 budget that had been submitted to the Town Manager. She explained the increases that are being requested. She informed the Board she will make her budget presentation to the Selectmen and FinCom on Saturday, March 1. She also stated that she had submitted two warrant articles. One article for a comprehensive needs assessment and the other for an increase in the amount of the abatement received for the tax work-off program. Don Robb suggested that since there is no grant writer for the Town that the Board members take that up with the Board of Selectmen.

Updates

Ann Grecoe stated that Bill Fahey, Director of Youth Services has been invited to the February to update the Board on the Youth Center project. Tim Vail of the Economic Council will be invited to the April meeting. The Board will have a joint meeting in May with TRIAD and the Commission on Disabilities. The Central Park update meeting is believed to have been moved to February but the specific date is unknown. It was felt that the Board should participate in the meeting. The Board would like Program Coordinator Karen Payne-Taylor to give them a program update. Kathy will check Karen's schedule to see when she is available. Ann reminded the members that the legislators want updates via letter or emails about what people are looking for. Ex: taxes, housing, transportation. The COAB would like to do more advocacy so Kathy Urquhart said she would put together a fact sheet they could use.

Ann Grecoe asked about the status of the request for the population by age by distance from The Center. Mary Garrity Cormier reported that it could not be done as it was too labor intensive.

The discussion of the Board members' biographies was postponed until the February meeting. The members were asked to review the information and send their thoughts about strengths and weaknesses to Ann by the 16th for her to compile. Members were also asked to consider what committee(s) they would like to work on and let Ann know which one(s). Everyone needs to be involved in at least one committee.

On MOTION of Joan Fox and seconded by Stu McNeil, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Morse
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is February 13, 2014.